



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TAMPA MAN INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Tampa- FL Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt today announced the indictment of ROGER STOWELL, age 72, of Tampa. He was charged in an indictment returned on May 10, 2007 with two counts of receiving visual depictions which had been shipped in interstate commerce which contained minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He faces a mandatory minimum term of five years' imprisonment and up to twenty years' imprisonment as to each count of the indictment.

According to court documents, FBI agents learned from members of STOWELL's family on March 16 that he had numerous images containing child pornography on his home computer hard drives. Agents seized the computers at STOWELL's home and, upon reviewing it, found numerous such images. Agents arrested STOWELL as he returned to Tampa on the evening of April 8 from a trip abroad. When they did, they discovered that he had with him a flash drive and a laptop computer which also contained numerous images of child pornography.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys

Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Special Prosecutions Section of the Tampa Division.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.